

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, amend Claims 1 and 4, and add Claims 6-10 as follows. All pending claims have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:
an image pickup element;
a memory for storing an image obtained by said image pickup element;
a signal processing circuit adapted to effect predetermined signal processing on an image read out of a first area of said memory; and
a memory control circuit adapted to, in a mode of continuously picking up still images, carry out in parallel a writing operation of writing an ~~image~~ image, obtained by said image pickup element, into the first area of said memory and a ~~readout~~ writing operation of ~~reading an~~ writing the image ~~already stored in the first area of said memory,~~ subjected to effect said the predetermined signal processing by ~~the said~~ signal processing circuit, into a second area of said memory.

2. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said signal processing circuit carries out white balance processing and compression processing of an image read out of the first area of said memory.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said memory control circuit further carries out a readout operation of reading an image stored in a the second area of said memory in parallel ~~to said~~ with the writing operation and readout operation, to record the image in a ~~removable~~ recording medium.

5. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said signal processing circuit and said memory control circuit are included on a single integrated circuit.

6. (New) An image pickup apparatus comprising:
an image pickup element;
a memory for storing an image obtained by said image pickup element;
an image compression circuit adapted to compress an image read out of a first area of said memory; and
a memory control circuit adapted to, in a mode of continuously picking up still images, carry out in parallel a writing operation of writing an image obtained by said image pickup element, into the first area of said memory and a readout operation of reading an image already stored in the first area of said memory to be compressed by the image compression circuit.

7. (New) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said memory control circuit further carries out a writing operation of writing a compressed image in a second area of said memory in parallel with the writing operation and the readout operation.

8. (New) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said memory control circuit further carries out a readout operation of reading an image stored in a second area of said memory in parallel with the writing operation and the readout operation, to record the image in a recording medium.

9. (New) A control method of an image pickup apparatus having an image pickup element, a memory and a signal processing circuit, said method comprising:
a first writing step of writing an image obtained by the image pickup element, into a first area of the memory,
a reading step of reading an image already stored in the first area of the memory;
a signal processing step for predetermined signal processing on the image read out of the first area of the memory by said reading step; and
a second writing step of writing the image subjected to the predetermined signal processing in said signal processing step into a second area of the memory, wherein said second writing step is performed in parallel with said first writing step.

10. (New) A control method of an image pickup apparatus having an image pickup element, a memory, and an image compression circuit, said method comprising:
a writing step of writing an image, obtained by said image pickup element, into a first area of the memory,
a reading step of reading an image already stored in the first area of the memory, wherein said reading step is performed in parallel with said writing step; and
an image compression step of compressing the image read out of the first area of the memory by said reading step.